Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (original) A PTC element comprising a sheet-like body made of a polymer PTC material, and first and second electrodes formed on a surface or surfaces of the sheet-like body, characterized in that the PTC element is provided with a space which at least partially traverses the sheet-like body in its thickness direction.

2. (original) The PTC element according to claim 1, wherein the space is at least partially defined by an inner wall of a through hole which extends through the sheet-like body.

3. (currently amended) The PTC element according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the first and second electrodes are formed distant from each other on the same sheet surface of the sheet-like body.

4. (currently amended) The PTC element according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the first and second electrodes are respectively formed on a pair of opposed sheet surfaces of the sheet-like body, so as not to overlap each other as they are seen by being projected in the thickness direction of the sheet-like body.

5. (currently amended) The PTC element according to <u>claim</u> ~~any of claims~~ 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the space is located within a region surrounded by an outer periphery of the electrode as <u>it is</u> ~~they are~~ seen by being projected in the thickness direction of the sheet-like body.

6. (original) The PTC element according to claim 5, wherein the space penetrates at least one of the electrodes.

7. (original) A starter circuit for a fluorescent lamp, comprising a polymer PTC element.

8. (currently amended) The circuit according to claim 7, <u>wherein</u> ~~comprising~~ the PTC element <u>comprises a sheet-like body made of a polymer PTC material, and first and second electrodes formed on a surface or surfaces of the sheet-like body, characterized in that the PTC element is provided with a space which at least partially traverses the sheet-like body in its thickness direction</u> ~~according to any of claims 1 to 6, as the polymer PTC element~~.